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Security Council

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Letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 29 November 2002, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088, I attach the October monthly report on SFOR operations (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on SFOR operations

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 31 October 2002), there were just over 14,600 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and 15 non-NATO countries.

2. During the period under review, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable.

Security

3. SFOR continues to contribute towards the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; monitor compliance by the Entity Armed Forces; conduct inspections and consolidation of weapons storage sites; provide support to the international organizations working in theatre, and to the Federation authorities in collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation HARVEST; and monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout the country.

4. SFOR continued Operation HARVEST during October. In the period 1 January to 31 October 2002, the total number of weapons and ammunition collected amounted to 7,588 small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers); 1,904,859 rounds of ammunition less than 20 millimetres (mm); 19,043 rounds of ammunition between 20 mm and 76 mm; 2,414 rounds of ammunition more than 76 mm; 33,242 hand grenades; 3,783 mines; 7,957 kilograms of explosives; and 43,667 other items (mortars, mortar rounds, rifle grenades, and hand-made ordnance).

5. On 22 October 2002, SFOR searched a farm complex near Brezje in the Republika Srpska, and confiscated a considerable quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives. On 28 October 2002, SFOR found and confiscated a rocket launcher, four grenades, an anti-tank mine, two anti-personnel mines and 100 rounds of ammunition during a search operation near Mackovac in the Republika Srpska.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. During the reporting period, the Entity Armed Forces carried out regular training activities which were in compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

7. SFOR monitored a total of 290 training and movement activities, 133 involving the Army of Republika Srpska and 157 involving the Army of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A total of 545 mine-clearing activities were monitored over this period, 250 involving the Army of Republika Srpska and 295 involving the Army of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. SFOR also carried out 90 inspections and verifications of weapons and storage sites: 48 involving the Army of Republika Srpska and 42 involving the Army of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

8. The strength of the Federation Armed Forces is now 13,173 soldiers (made up of 8,977 Bosniacs and 4,196 Bosnian Croats). The Army of Republika Srpska currently has 7,443 soldiers.

9. From 11 to 13 October 2002, SFOR inspected the Orao Government Ordnance Factory near Bijelina in the Republika Srpska to determine its compliance with the

terms of the instruction to the Parties. An examination of documents showed evidence that Orao Aviation had been providing aircraft parts and technical expertise to Iraq through the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in violation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and Security Council resolutions. As a result, the Republika Srpska National Assembly suspended the head of Orao, the head of the Bosnian Serb Air Force administration and the head of the Government's weapons trade office, while the Republika Srpska Supreme Defence Council accepted the resignation of the Minister of Defence and the Chief of General Staff. In addition, the Republika Srpska Minister of Foreign Trade announced that procedures to establish state-level control over the import-export of weapons would be implemented by 15 November 2002. In the meantime, commerce of that kind has been banned and new inspections have been announced.

Cooperation with international organizations

10. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Police Task Force, the Office of the High Representative, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

11. SFOR support to the Office of the High Representative in implementing the arbitration decision in Dobrinja for resettlement of some Bosnian Serb families has been concluded. All of the families concerned have been resettled in alternative accommodation.

12. An official agreement on the operational procedures for mutual support between search and rescue agencies[a] has been prepared for approval by the parties. It is expected that the final document will be signed in early November 2002 by the SFOR Chief of Staff and the Project Coordinator of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Department of Civil Aviation.

13. During the reporting period, SFOR provided support to a United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) depleted uranium investigation team to complete its sampling programme.[b]

Outlook

14. The security situation is expected to remain stable.

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[a] SFOR CJ3 Air and Bosnia and Herzegovina Regional Control Centre.

[b] The results of the initial analysis were disclosed by the UNEP team in a press conference held on 11 November 2002, and the final results will be published by March 2003.